

What does our business need to do to comply with the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012?

All businesses, private, public, and third sector, big and small, must take the following actions:

Your business must recycle metal, plastic, glass, paper and card from **1 January 2014**.

Food collection

Businesses which process, prepare or distribute food will also need to present their food waste for collection.

- If you produce over **50 kg** of food waste per week, you must present it for separate collection from **1 January 2014**.
- If you produce over **5 kg** of food waste per week (approximately one 10 litre food caddy) you will need to present your food waste by **1 January 2016**.
- By **1 January 2016**, where food collections are available, it will be illegal to dispose of food into a public drain or sewer, for example by using a macerator.

What should I do now?

The Regulations come into effect 1 January 2014, and you'll find it pays to be prepared.

You have a Duty of Care to ensure your waste is handled in line with the new Regulations and are encouraged to speak to your waste contractor. They will be able to explain how they will collect your waste in a way that complies with the Regulations and the cost of that service. You could also contact other waste management services to see who will offer your business the best value for money.

You can search for waste management services operating in your area in the Business Reuse and Recycling Directory online.

You may secure an even better deal on your waste collection service by joining forces with other businesses in your immediate area.

Where can I find out more?

There is a wealth of information available online about your responsibilities under the new Regulations. As well as a Frequently Asked Questions section, a rural business postcode finder and video case studies, you will find many helpful tips on how to implement the new Regulations and maximise the benefits for your business.

For free advice and support on meeting the new Regulations and how to save money, visit www.resourceefficientscotland.com

Alternatively, email enquiries@resourceefficientscotland.com or call the helpline on **0808 808 2268**

 **recycle for Scotland**
When you have finished with this please recycle it.
www.resourceefficientscotland.com



The law on waste is changing for all businesses in Scotland.

From 1 January 2014 the Waste (Scotland) Regulations mean that all organisations, big or small, will have to recycle their plastic, metal, glass, paper and card or risk a fine. Most food businesses will also have to recycle food waste.

Are you a rural business?

Rural food businesses are exempt from separating food waste. It is your responsibility to check if your business is classed as rural and you can do this easily online using the postcode finder tool on our website. If you are exempt, you may still want to examine the economic benefits of food recycling.



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Your legal duty as a business

If you run a business in Scotland, you are already legally responsible for safely disposing of any waste your business produces. **From 1st January 2014**, the law will require your business to take all reasonable steps to recycle as much of that waste as possible. It will also require all local authorities and waste contractors to meet high recycling standards.

Detailed guidance on the new statutory duties and information on how best to comply with them is available in the Duty of Care Code of Practice produced by the Scottish Government. You can access this guidance via this web link: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0040/00404095.pdf>



Why should I do it?

Aside from the long term economic and environmental benefits, your business risks a substantial fine if it does not take all reasonable steps to recycle the waste it produces.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Scottish Local Authorities are empowered to enforce the Regulations and deal with companies who are not compliant. Enforcement of the Waste Regulations will run alongside other business regulation and could potentially lead to a fine of up to £10,000 for non-compliance.

Your waste contractor may refuse to collect your waste if it is not properly sorted for recycling.

Who will help my business comply?

Waste contractors (including local authorities) will also be affected by the Regulations. They will be required to deliver the best recycling service possible and will not be able to incinerate or landfill materials that have been collected for recycling.

Resource Efficient Scotland, a new programme being delivered by Zero Waste Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government, can help your business prepare for the new Regulations.



Helping you cut costs

As well as helping businesses prepare for the new Regulations, Resource Efficient Scotland is also working with industry to cut energy, water and raw materials use.

Scottish organisations could save £2.9 billion every year by taking simple steps to optimise resource use. Contact us today for free accessible online guidance, telephone support and one-to-one on-site consultancy to help you implement resource efficiency, cut costs, improve productivity and competitiveness.



Do we really need more regulation?

The new Regulations will benefit everyone in Scotland and it is vital we act quickly.

The Regulations represent the most significant development in recycling for Scotland and are designed to help realise the true value of resources currently thrown away. Latest estimates from Zero Waste Scotland reveal that Scotland is currently paying £95 million in landfill taxes to throw away key recyclates (paper, glass, metal, plastic and card) valued at £97 million. The Regulations can potentially boost Scotland's economy and create green jobs, and will play a key role in helping reach the ambitious target to recycle 70% of all waste by 2025.

Food and biodegradable material sent to landfill sites gives off methane – a potent greenhouse gas. Diverting this material from landfill will reduce emissions equivalent to taking 166,000 cars off Scotland's roads.

Processing food waste through modern treatment plants has the potential to generate enough energy to power the city of Inverness and supply 10% of Scotland's fertiliser needs.

Escalating landfill tax means that contractors will have to charge your business more and more to dispose of unrecycled waste at a time when it is vital to keep costs down and remain competitive.

Recycling makes sense for Scotland both financially and environmentally and we can't afford to wait. Recycling your waste is one of many ways for your business to be more resource efficient and cost effective.